DMM Scans

Shut it and Die!!!

SHINSHOKU KISS

1

KAZUKO HIGASHIYAMA

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TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Kazuko Higashiyama

SHINSHOKU KISS

1

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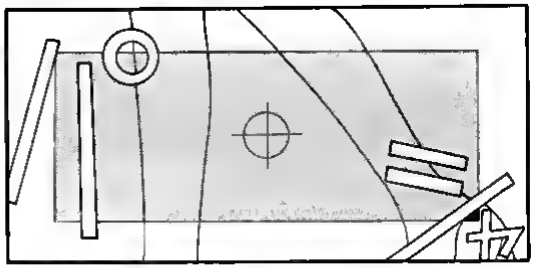
YOU REALLY TOOK A LIKING TO #68, DIDN'T YOU?
FINE, BUT I PERSONALLY LIKE CONTESTANT #61'S POLL
WELL, ISN'T IT HUMAN NATURE TO BE DRAWN TO SOMETHING THAT ONE DOESN'T HAVE?
SO, IT'S AGREED THAT THE FIRST ANNUAL EXECUTIVE POLL CONTEST WINNER WILL BE CONTESTANT #104'S ENTRY.
CHIEF JUDGE FOOL?
104
NEVERTHELESS, I'D LIKE TO CONVEY TO THE POLL MAKER...
68
BUT...
I KNOW, I KNOW THIS PARTICULAR PIECE ISN'T SUITABLE FOR THIS AWARD.
story 1 first contact



MY NAME IS KOTOKO KASHIWAGI.

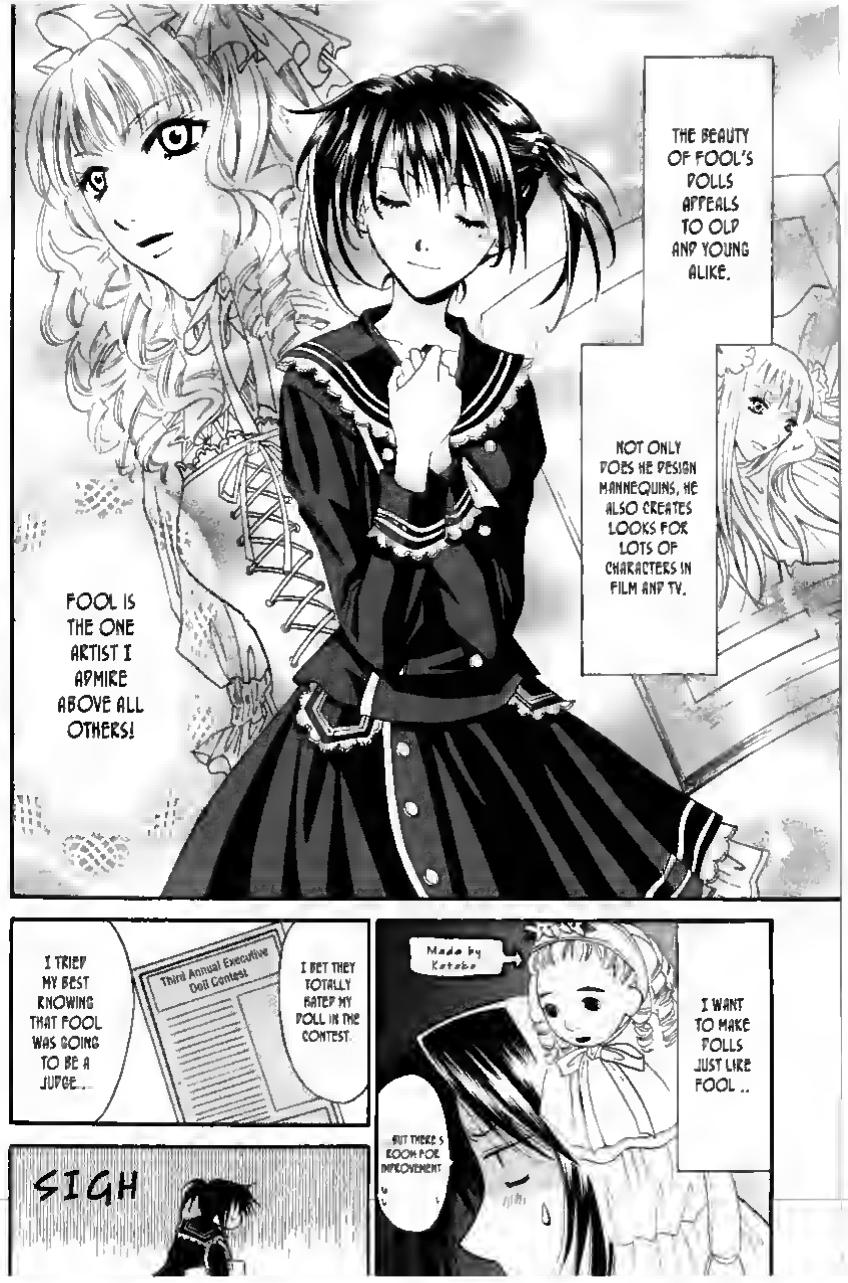
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!
IT'S OKAY. A PICTURE OF HER LEGS IS GOOD ENOUGH!
I've gotta get over this whole shoot and run thing, though

...HOW MUCH I LIKED HER CREATION.
E.D.C. Application Data
68
UM, EXCUSE ME!
I MAKE DOLLS AS A HOBBY, AND SEEING HOW YOU'RE SO PRETTY...
...I'D LOVE IT IF I COULD TAKE A PICTURE OF YOU--AS A MODEL FOR A FUTURE DOLL, I MEAN.
ALL RIGHT! ENOUGH PRACTICING. TIME TO MAKE MY MOVE!
Aieee!!

FOOL.
HIS REAL IDENTITY IS A TOTAL MYSTERY...
ANY POLL MADE BY FOOL IS REALLY POPULAR.
...FOOL'S LATEST CREATIONS!
AND IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR A LINE OF FOOL POLLS TO ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF TOP CLOTHES DESIGNERS.
THEY'RE SO COOL...
I WONDER HOW HE GETS THE HAIR AND THE NOSE TO LOOK SO PERFECT.

BUT DON'T THINK I'VE GOT SOME KIND OF ...SICK FETISH!
AND WHEN I SAY "BEAUTIFUL," I DON'T JUST MEAN PRETTY FACES. THEY GOTTA HAVE A PERFECT BODIES, TOO.
I'M CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE TO TAKE PICTURES OF. MEN, WOMEN--IT DOESN'T MATTER.
OH. WOW...
I DO IT FOR MY HOBBY.
THOSE ARE...
MY POLL-MAKING HOBBY.

LIFE IS LONG!
NO!
IF I GIVE UP NOW, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR! GO, ME!
I WONDER IF IT'S A PRESENT TO HIS GIRL--
FRIEND !!
WOW, LOOK AT THAT BOUQUET OF FLOWERS...
THE ROAD TO GETTING AS GOOD AS FOOL IS A LONG ONE BUT I CAN MAKE IT!
WOW...!
HIS HANDS ARE BEAUTIFUL!!
I NEED TO...


THE BEAUTY OF FOOL'S DOLLS APPEALS TO OLD AND YOUNG ALIKE.
NOT ONLY DOES HE DESIGN MANNEQUINS, HE ALSO CREATES LOOKS FOR LOTS OF CHARACTERS IN FILM AND TV.
FOOL IS THE ONE ARTIST I ADMIRE ABOVE ALL OTHERS!
I TRIED MY BEST KNOWING THAT FOOL WAS GOING TO BE A JUDGE...
Third Annual Executive Doll Contest
I BET THEY TOTALLY RATED MY DOLL IN THE CONTEST.
SIGH
Made by Katoko
BUT THERE'S ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT
I WANT TO MAKE DOLLS JUST LIKE FOOL ..

HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL FACE, TOO!
He's like a doll made by Fool Iemoto!!
MUNCH
MUNCH
BUT WHAT'S HE EATING THE FLOWERS FOR...?
HUM?

I NEED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THEM FOR SURE!
UM...
EXCUSE ME...
WHOA!

KUH?
WHAT?!
Hey! What the--?!
!!
!
.....
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT? STATIC?!
Ouch!
WHA
KYA?!

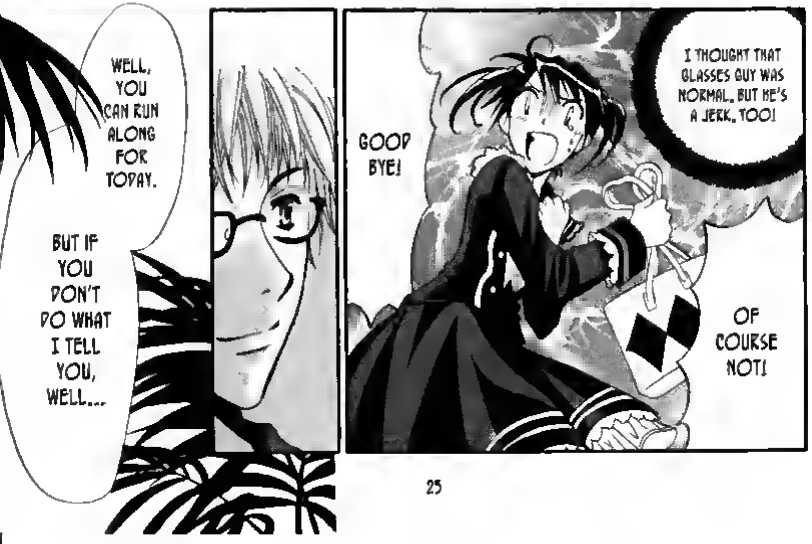
I'M JUST GOING TO WALK ON OUT--
バッ
ｽﾞｰﾝ
ｽﾞｰﾝ
WHAT?!
HOW DID HE--?!
GYAAA!!

A strange room? In a store? o_o
WHERE AM I?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

.....
What a jerk!
IGNORE
WHAT-EVER!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
WHAT'D YOU BRING ME ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE FOR?!

N...
NO...
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
I-I'M SORRY...
OH NO...!
?!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!
ISN'T HE GONNA LET ME LEAVE?!
SO WEIRD. THIS GUY HASN'T UTTERED A WORD SINCE I RAN INTO HIM.
HE'S PRETTY, BUT HE'S WEIRD! DEFINITELY WEIRD!
PLUS, WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BANDAGES?
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
GLANCE

Heh
YOU'RE TREMBLING.
SORRY. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
SUCH A SOOTHING VOICE...
I...
N-NO...
KEEP AWAY FROM ME...
HE'S SMILING?! THIS GUY'S REALLY NUTS!
STOP RIGHT THERE, TAKUTO.
NOOO!!

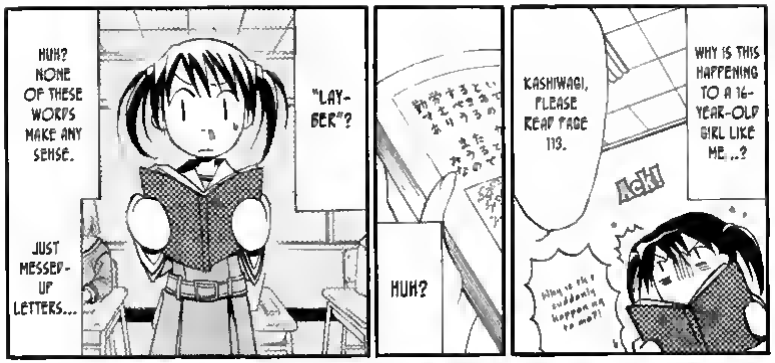

WELL, YOU CAN RUN ALONG FOR TODAY.
BUT IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT I TELL YOU, WELL...
GOOD BYE!
I THOUGHT THAT GLASSES GUY WAS NORMAL, BUT HE'S A JERK, TOO!
OF COURSE NOT!

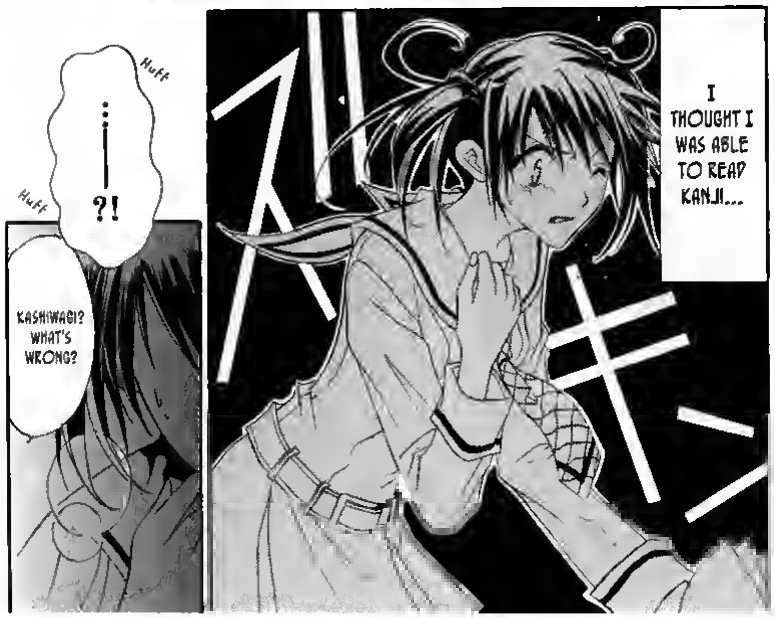
I NEEDED TO HEAR A VOICE LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW.

Hah
SHE'LL BE BACK...
GOTCHA.
Kotoko Kashiwagi
TEL 00-0000-0000
PHS XXX XXX XXXX
Kotoko Kashiwagi
TEL 00-0000
THE CURSE HAS BEGUN.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, DEAR KOTOKO KASHIWAGI?

...YOU'RE...
...GOING TO DIE.

But so many beautiful people walk that street...
THEY ARE THE WORST!
WHAT A MAJOR JERK! HOW RUDE CAN YOU GET?!
I'M NOT SETTING FOOT NEAR THAT PLACE AGAIN!


HUH? NONE OF THESE WORDS MAKE ANY SENSE.
"LAY-BER"?
JUST MESSED-UP LETTERS...
HUH?
KASHIWAGI, PLEASE READ PAGE 113.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL LIKE ME...?
AckU
Why is this suddenly happen me to me?!


Huff
...
?!
Huff
KASHIWAGI? WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT I WAS ABLE TO READ KANJI...

WHAT'S WRONG, KOTOKO? YOU LOOK REALLY PALE AND RUN-DOWN.
UNGH, I HAVEN'T FELT GOOD ALL MORNING.
MAYBE I'M JUST WIPED OUT FROM THE ORDEAL OF THE OTHER DAY...
MY BODY FEELS LIKE A LEAD WEIGHT...
SNIFF

ARGH! AND IT WON'T STOP!
WHAT?!
HUH? I WONDER WHY?
EWW, YOU GOT A BLOODY NOSE!
.....

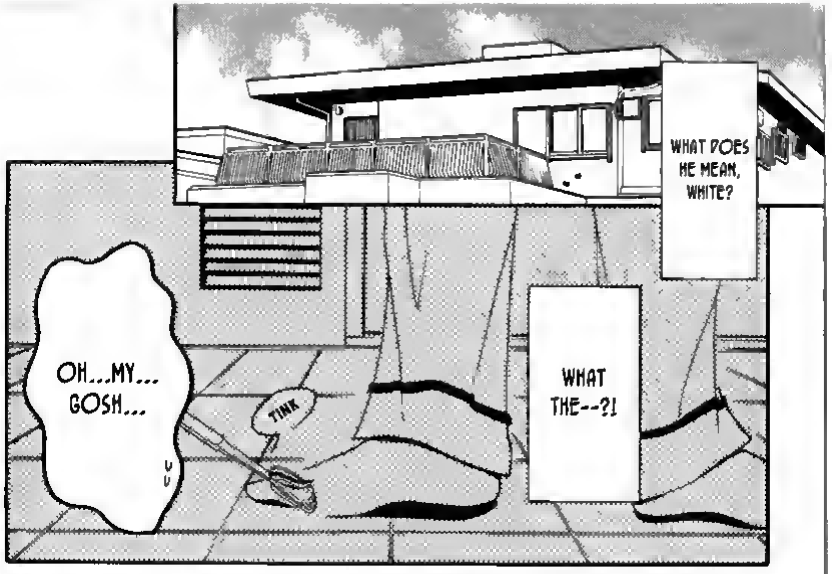
I HOPE I HAVEN'T CAUGHT SOME WEIRD DISEASE. HMM?
THE CONTEST RESULTS?!
BUT...I LOST...
THIS IS...
Hello. We hope everything is going well with you
Thank you for entering the Executive Doll contest. However we regret to inform you that your doll was not chosen as one of our fin
FOLLE
"DEAR MS. KASHIWAGI..."
"PERSONALLY, I REALLY ENJOYED YOUR WORK. PLEASE DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED WITH THIS CONTEST RESULT, AND CONTINUE WITH YOUR DOLL MAKING."
OH, WOW...

DRIP
DRIP
MY CHEST HURTS!!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY BODY?
WHAT A DAY...

HUH?
I BET YOU...
...BLED BUCKETFULS TODAY, DIDN'T YOU?
THIS GUY AGAIN?! HOW DOES HE KNOW?!
WHITE?
IF YOU DON'T COME, YOU'RE GOING TO TURN WHITE.
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU IN THE SAME ROOM WHERE WE MET.
CLK

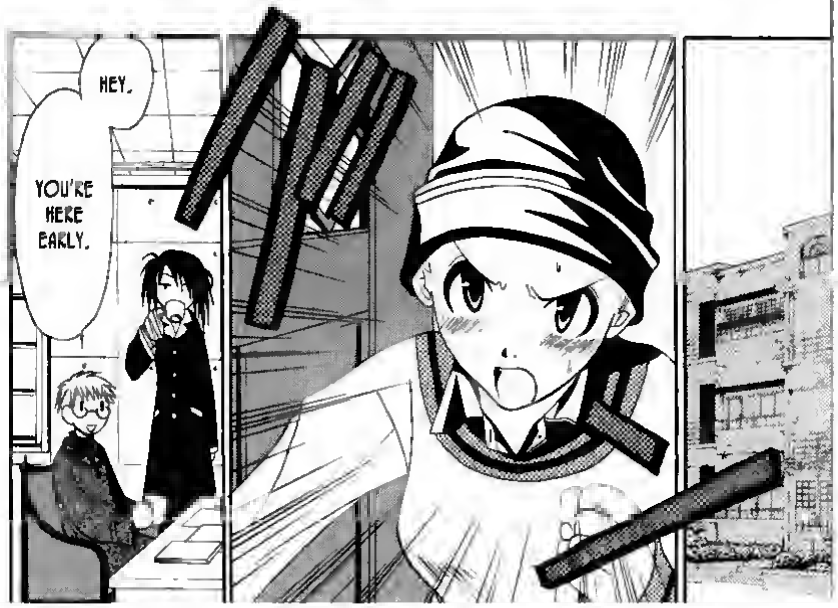
A LETTER FROM FOOL HIMSELF...
I'M SO ECSTATIC!!
NO ONE'S EVER TOLD ME THAT THEY LIKED MY WORK BEFORE!
Bow Wow
I'LL CONTINUE WITH MY DOLL MAKING, FOOL!
UGH!
ZINC
!!
NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN ENCOURAGEMENT FROM FOOL, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIE OF THIS BIZARRE DISEASE!
RINNG
WHO COULD IT BE AT THIS HOUR...?

SHOULD YOU BE LOUNGING AROUND DRINKING TEA?
IT DOESN'T
...SEEM RIGHT GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DOES IT?!


WHAT DOES HE MEAN, WHITE?
OH...MY... GOSH...
TINK
WHAT THE--?!

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY BODY?!
FIX ME! TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY!
OF COURSE I WILL, KOTOKO-CHAN.

OH, WOW. SO MAGN-IFICENT...
WHAT A LOVELY HEAP OF WHITE HAIR.
ARRRGH!


HEY.
YOU'RE HERE EARLY.

YOUR ORGANS AND BONES WILL SOON WITHER AWAY.
THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS! WHAT ARE YOU--
YOUR GUTS ARE AS WRINKLY AND OLD AS YOUR GRANNY'S.
SO ALL THOSE AWFUL THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HAPPENING TO ME RECENTLY...
IT CAN'T BE...
NOT ONLY WON'T YOU BE ABLE TO MOVE, BUT BY TOMORROW...
IT WAS ALL BECAUSE OF HIM?
...YOU'LL BE 120 YEARS OLD.
STILL CONFIDENT YOU'LL SURVIVE?
HE DID THIS TO ME...?

WHUMP
KYA!
ARE YOU STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT?!
AS LONG AS YOU AGREE TO HELP ME WITH MY WORK.
YOU WANT A HINT? I HAVE THIS SUPERNATURAL POWER...
...THAT ALLOWS ME TO ACCELERATE TIME.
YOU WHAT?!
I ACCELERATED THE PASSAGE OF TIME INSIDE YOUR BODY.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE...!
NO...
I'M GOING TO TAKE THAT AS A YES.
WHY ME? WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?
IT DOES.
WHY?!
KOTOKO.
BECAUSE...

IF I WANTED TO...
...I COULD EASILY KILL YOU.
UNGH...

F--
FOOL
LET'S MAKE DOLLS TOGETHER, KOTOKO!

HE TAKES CARE OF ME.
THIS HERE IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, TAKUTO.
...A.K.A. FOOL.
Call me Yuta
MY NAME IS YUTA KUJYO.

OH, NOTHING MUCH. JUST THIS... THAT'S IT.
MAYBE HE'S GOT MORE IN MIND THAN HE'S TELLING ME...
HE MADE ME A DEATH THREAT JUST TO GET ME TO BE HIS ASSISTANT ...?
Death threat by booby supernatural powers U are last!
H-HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO H-HELP YOU?

I LIKE YOUR DOLLS.
I TOLD YOU WHY MYSELF. I PUT IT IN WRITING.

I WANT YOU TO BE MY ASSISTANT.

AND WHAT IS THIS?
EVERY-THING'S SO WEIRD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S REAL ANYMORE...
YOU'RE A JERK...
WHAT'S WITH THE FROWN, TAKUTO?
GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

story 2
a flower is born

.....
TO FULFILL THEIR DEAREST GOALS, PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING. SHE WILL, AND WE WILL.
IN ORDER TO AVOID DEATH, THEY'LL DO ANYTHING.
FOR GIRLS LIKE HER, FEAR OF DEATH IS THE ULTIMATE MOTIVATOR.
KOTOKO.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
THROUGH MY FUZZY HEAD...
...I HEARD THOSE DEMENTED WORDS THAT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE.
YOU WILL INVADE THE SOULS OF OTHERS FOR ME.

1 End

YOU'VE GOT A GENIUS FOR MESSING UP.
IT'S THAT GREAT?!
MESSING UP?
YOU'RE A GENIUS...
THIS IS...!
MAYBE YOU'RE NOT CUT OUT FOR DOLL MAKING...
YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF EXPERIENCED, BUT YOU'RE SO CLUMSY IT'S SHOCKING.
...YOU ALSO DAMAGED THE OTHER SKIN.
I ASKED YOU TO SAND DOWN THE CONNECTING JOINTS, BUT INSTEAD OF CONCEALING IT...
ON TOP OF THAT...
...BUT THIS GUY IS MEAN, AND HE HARASSES ME.
DOLL MAKING IS FUN...
THEN WHY DON'T YOU HIRE AN ASSISTANT BETTER THAN ME?

HEH HEH HEH. ♡
PEOPLE SAY THAT AN ARTIST'S WORK IS A REFLECTION OF THE ARTIST'S PERSONALITY.
I GUESS THAT'S IT! IT'S PERFECT!
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN WHERE DO FOOL DOLLS GET THEIR BEAUTY?
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE BEAUTY DOESN'T COME FROM THIS GUY!
THE ALMIGHTY POOL'S GOING TO CHECK YOUR WORK!
IT'S ONLY HARASSMENT IF YOU'RE A WOMAN.
THIS IS SEXUAL HARASSMENT, YUTA-SAN!
WELL, SORRY IF YOU THINK I'M STILL A KID!
GYAAAA!
KOTOKO! ♡

IGNORE
AND THIS GUY NEVER TALKS TO ME.
TAKUTO-SAN...
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

I WONDER HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DOLL THIS BEAUTIFUL...
HOW DO EVIL PEOPLE LIKE THAT CREATE SUCH BEAUTIFUL DOLLS?
A WELL-SHAPED FACE AND A TRENDY WARDROBE.
A CLIONE.

KEEP SAYING THAT AND THOSE BLACK LOCKS WILL GO WHITE AGAIN. ♡
AND HE THREATENS ME, TOO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS GUY MAKES FOOL DOLLS!
Kyaaa!

GOTTA WORK HARD--
O-OKAY!
THE ROAD TO MAKING A POOL DOLL IS ONE LONG, SLOW DAY AFTER ANOTHER
UH... UH-HUH
HURRY UP AND IMPROVE SO YOU CAN WORK ON THE REAL THING
AND GIVE ME BACK THE MINI POOL DOLL.

OUR EMPLOYEES AT COMPANY FOOL ROP.
EIICHIRO AND MAYUMI TODOROKI, THEY'RE MARRIED.
EIICHIRO HANDLES EVERYTHING FROM LOGISTICS TO SALES, AND HE'S A BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL.
MAYUMI IS THE CLOTHING DESIGNER FOR THE DOLLS.
WHAT?!
FOOL OWNS A COMPANY CALLED FOOL ROP?
YEP. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M ITS PRESIDENT.
S-SO N-NICE TO MEET YOU...!
SO THIS IS THE PERSON WHO MAKES THOSE CLOTHES?! SERIOUSLY?!

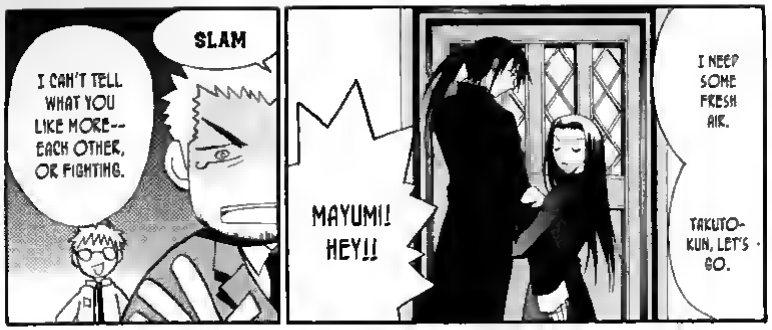
WITH A FINISH LIKE THIS, WE CAN'T EVEN CHARGE A PENNY FOR IT.
THESE PIGTAILS LOOK LIKE THE WINGS OF A CLIONE SEA SLUG! YES, VERY SIMILAR.
SHE'S MY NEW ASSISTANT. HER NAME IS KOTOKO KASHIWAGI.
HEY, YUTA, WHO IS THAT LITTLE ONE?
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? THEY'RE SO RUDE.
KOTOKO, LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...
YUTA! WHEN DID YOU STOOP SO LOW IN TASTE?! IT'S A CLIONE, FOR GOD'S SAKE! A MICROORGANISM!
Ha ha ha... you're shobing ♡
YOU REJECT ALL THE TALENTED ASSISTANTS I OFFER YOU, AND NOW YOU GO OFF AND CHOOSE THAT PITIFUL BRAT AS YOUR ASSISTANT?!

WHAT WE DO HERE IS BIG BUSINESS.
THIS ISN'T SOME STUPID GAME.
IF THIS GIRL IS GOING TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT, YOU CAN FORGET QUALITY!
SHE'S JUST GOING TO DRAG THE COMPANY DOWN.
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY I'D RATHER BE SELLING A DOLL THAT'S WORTH THOUSANDS.
THOSE WHO CAN'T PRODUCE RESULTS ARE A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY.
?!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S DISRESPECT-FUL?!
DO YOU TWO THINK OF OUR DOLLS ONLY AS A SOURCE OF MONEY?!
D...

IT'S LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD...
WHOA...
HEY, YUTA. ABOUT LAST MONTH'S EXPENSES...
YOU'RE GOING TO SCATTER DUST AND SHAVINGS EVERY-WHERE
CLEAN YOURSELF UP BEFORE YOU SOIL ALL THE CLOTHES!
SQZ
THE QUALITY IS GOING TO SUFFER!
YUTA! DON'T YOU WANT TO SELL MORE FOOL DOLLS?
I KEEP TELLING YOU, WE CAN'T DO MASS PRODUCTION!
QUALITY? LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
I FEEL LEFT OUT...

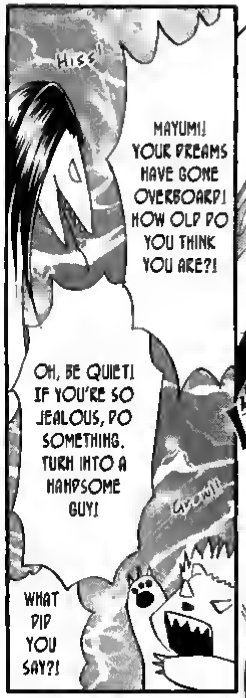
THEY'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF!
HEY, MAYUMI...
BUT WON'T YOU LET ME FIX YOUR HAIR UP NICER? ♡
SHUT UP! DON'T TALK IN MY DREAM!
AND WHAT'S YOUR DREAM?!
QUIT FLIRTING WITH TAKUTO IN FRONT OF YOUR HUSBAND?!!
OH, TAKUTO-KUN, SEEING YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE MAKES ME SO HAPPY EVERY DAY!
HERE'S A PRESENT. ♡
Pick it up ♡

NA'IVE LITTLE IDEALIST.
ART DOESN'T PAY THE BILLS.
DO YOU EVEN LIKE DOLLS?!
YUTA, GIVE ME A LIGHT.
OOH TAKUTO-KUN ♡
HEY!!
DO THESE PEOPLE ONLY LOOK AT FOOL DOLLS AS MONEYMAKERS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE FOOL ROD IS MANAGED BY SUCH CRASS, GREEDY PEOPLE.

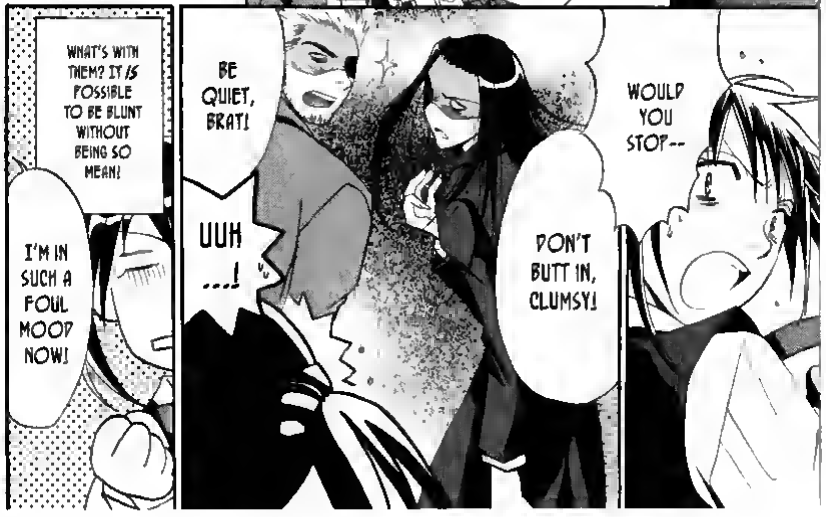

SLAM
I CAN'T TELL WHAT YOU LIKE MORE-- EACH OTHER, OR FIGHTING.
MAYUMI! HEY!!
I NEED SOME FRESH AIR.
TAKUTO-KUN, LET'S GO.

SHUT UP!!
NOW, NOW DON'T TAKE YOUR MARITAL FRUSTRATIONS OUT ON ME
MAYUMI IS IN A BAD MOOD BECAUSE OF YOU!

WE'RE GOING OUT, KOTOKO.
HUH? WHERE...?
YOU SHOULD KNOW!
YOU'RE NOT A PEDOPHILE, ARE YOU?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU ALL THIS TIME...


MAYUMI! YOUR DREAMS HAVE GONE OVERBOARD! HOW OLD DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
OH, BE QUIET! IF YOU'RE SO JEALOUS, DO SOMETHING. TURN INTO A HANDSOME GUY!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

I'M GOING TO MAKE TAKUTO-KUN INTO A COMPLETE VISUAL KEI IDOL...
LIKE THIS?
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE HOLLYWOOD BY STORM! ♡


WHAT'S WITH THEM? IT IS POSSIBLE TO BE BLUNT WITHOUT BEING SO MEAN!
I'M IN SUCH A FOUL MOOD NOW!
BE QUIET, BRAT!
UUH ...!
DON'T BUTT IN, CLUMSY!
WOULD YOU STOP--

YOU'RE GOING TO KISS EIICHIRO.
IN JUST THE SAME WAY I KISSED YOU THE OTHER DAY.
WHAT?!
YOU WANT ME TO WHAT?! IF YOU LIKE HIM, WHY DON'T YOU TO IT?!
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING MALE DOLLS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER SEEN A MALE DOLL FROM FOOL.
THEN WHY...?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'D BE FUN IF I STUCK NAILS INTO ITS CHEST?
LIKE VOO-DOO?!
I CAN'T KISS A GUY I JUST MET!
IT WAS SHOCKING ENOUGH WHEN YOU KISSED ME!
I SEE...
SO YOU'RE SAYING IF YOU'D GOTTEN TO KNOW ME BETTER, YOU'D HAVE KISSED ME?
UH...?!

WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW MAYUMI.
ARGH!
UH-OH...
THEY'RE WAY TOO CLOSE!
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A DOLL OUT OF EIICHIRO.
WHY DO I HAVE TO TAG ALONG FOR THIS...?
KOTOKO.
MAKE A DOLL? THEN WE NEED TO GO BACK AND PIECE TOGETHER THE BODY.
HUH?
NO.

DID SHE HURT HER LEG?
MAYUMI-SAN?
TAKUTO-SAN...
WHAT IS HE DOING?
GIVE MAYUMI A HAND.
TAKUTO.
YOU BASTARD! GIVE HER A HAND, FOR CHRISSAKE!

DID HE JUST SAVE ME?
EIICHIRO-SAN...
KOTORO
...I GUESS NOT...
MAYU-MU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, PEDOPHILE?
IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN--
IMPLANTED?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.
BUT I NEED TO KNOW NOW! SO EXPLAIN--
KYA!!
...BE-CAUSE I IMPLANTED THAT DESIRE INTO YOU, RIGHT HERE.
YOU WILL DEFINITELY WANT TO KISS PEOPLE...

YOU GUYS SUCK!
And this Fool Doll thinks so, too!
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU GUYS.
B-BESIDES!
YOU ARE ALL SO SELFISH! HAVE YOU THOUGHT FOR A SECOND ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS?
YUTA-SAN!
Give me back that doll!
KOTOKO! YOU TOO.
...WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

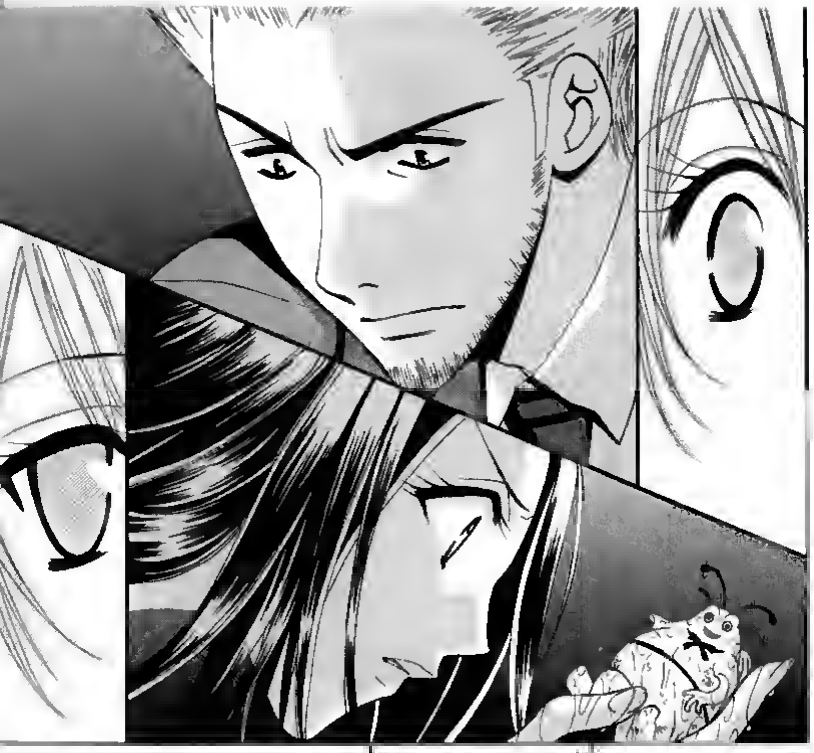
...WITHOUT GETTING PERMISSION FROM YUTA?!
SO YOU CAN'T EVEN LIFT A FINGER TO HELP MAYUMI...
TAKUTO-KUN...
HONEY! DON'T TOUCH TAKUTO-KUN!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I DON'T LIKE YOU!
WHAT?
SHUT UP!
I CAN'T BELIEVE GROWN PEOPLE ARE ARGUING ABOUT THIS! HOW SILLY!
ARGH!!

HOW DID THAT DOG--?!
WHAT...?!
WAIT ...!
WAIT!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, IT'LL ALL BE BECAUSE OF ME!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

OH NO...
THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
KYA!
I NEVER WANT TO BE AROUND THOSE EVIL PEOPLE AGAIN!
HUH?
I HATE YOU ALL!
I...

I'M SO GLAD!
Sob
WHA...
THAT STUPID DOG...!
スッ
ぼっ
No freakin' way!!
ちゃん

I NEVER GAVE THAT POLL A THOUGHT. WHO AM I KIDDING?
I'M JUST LIKE MAYUMI-SAN AND EVERYONE ELSE!
TAKUTO-SAN?!
huff
TH-THANK YOU...
huff
... VERY... MUCH.
huff
I'M...

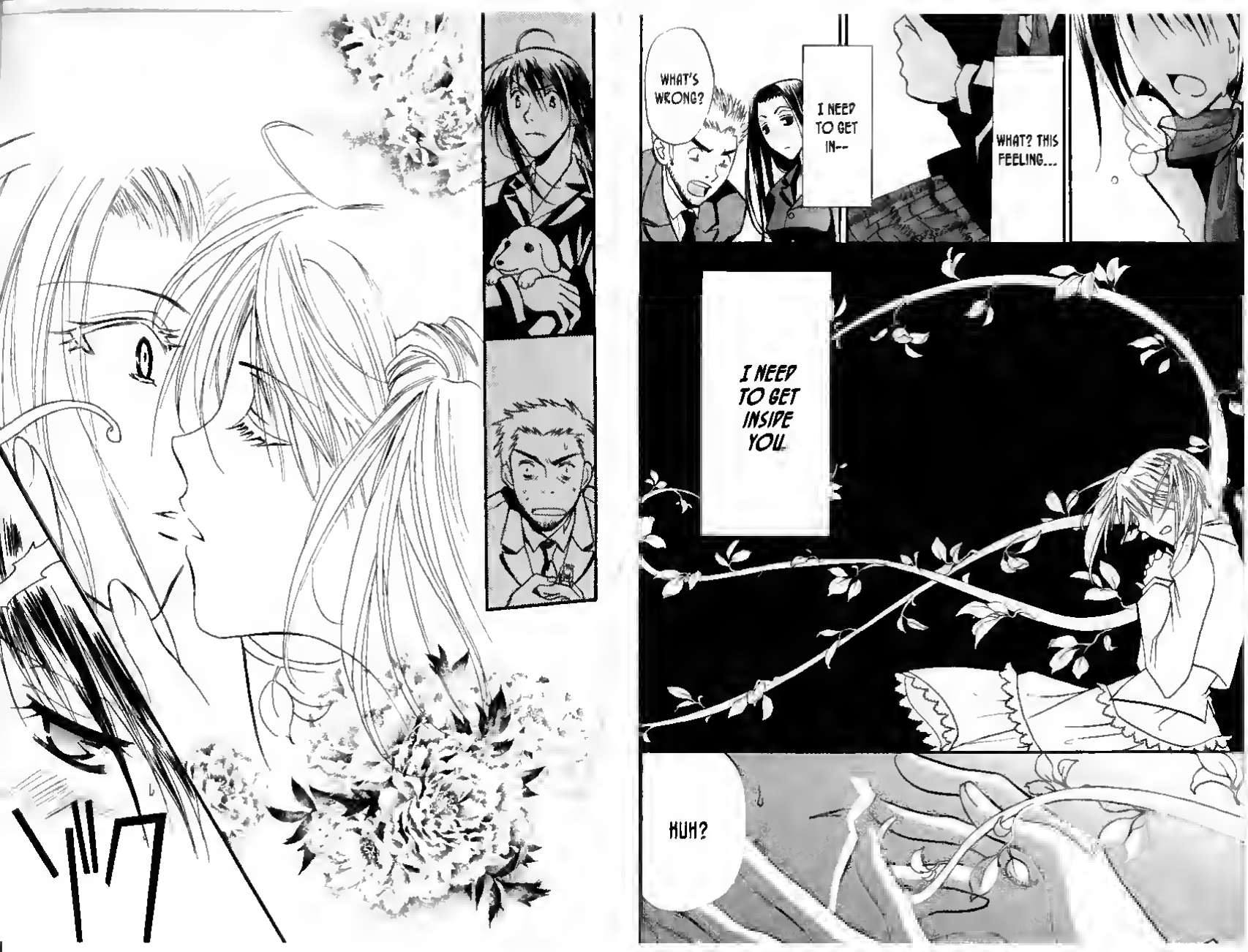


KYA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HER HEAD?!
HUH?
DON'T HURT IT!
I FOUND IT!

YOU'LL GET YOUR CLOTHES DIRTY!
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU TWO DOING THIS?

HATE THEM?
IF WE HATED DOLLS, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THE DOLL BUSINESS, WOULD WE?
ALL THIS TIME!
SO...
NOW YOU KNOW.
ドン

AH, JEEZ!
BE CAREFUL! MAYBE THE HEAD FLOATED AWAY...
THE HEAD...
WHEN EIICHIRO-SAN PULLED THE DOLL'S BODY OUT OF THE MUD...
AH!
...I SAW IT GO FLYING.
I'M GLAD...
GRIN
WHAT?!
AND ALL THIS TIME...
...I THOUGHT YOU TWO HATED DOLLS.

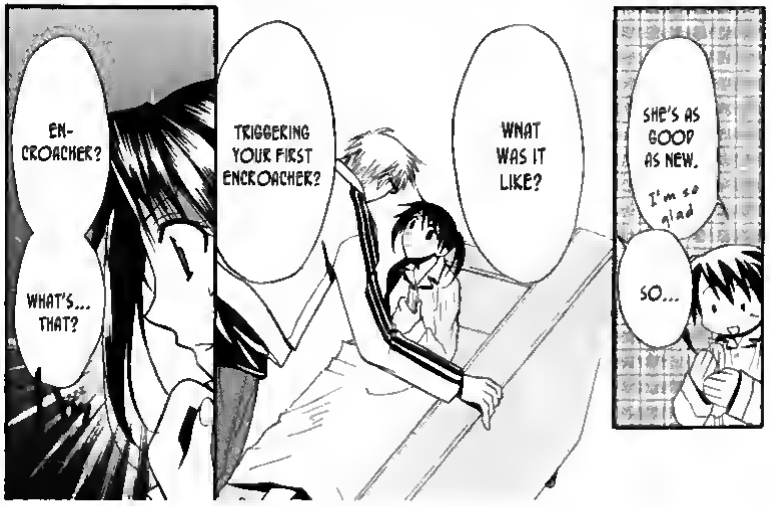

WHAT'S WRONG?
I NEED TO GET IN--
WHAT? THIS FEELING...
I NEED TO GET INSIDE YOU
HUH?

AND IT FEELS GOOD...
What's with this girl?
Hey, don't fall asleep!
IT BLOOMED...

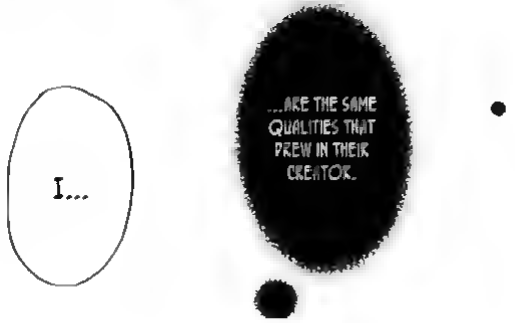
...THEY'RE ALL FLOWING INTO ME.
THEY'RE COMING IN.
MAYUMI-SAN'S FEELINGS ABOUT DOLLS...

SO YOU DID DO SOMETHING TO MY BODY!
Hah!
I WAS NEVER KIDDING YOU ABOUT THAT.
THEN YOU TRANSFER THOSE QUALITIES TO YOUR DOLL.
AND THAT'S WHAT ...
ATTRACTION...
YOU TRY TO ABSORB THE VERY QUALITIES IN OTHERS THAT ATTRACTS YOU TO THEM.
A-ANYWAY, WHAT'S AN ENCROACHER?

I FIXED THE DOLL.
HEY, KOTOKO. I SEE YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
THE OFFICE?!
Not faint again?!


EN-CROACHER?
WHAT'S... THAT?
TRIGGERING YOUR FIRST ENCROACHER?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
SHE'S AS GOOD AS NEW.
I'm so glad
SO...

TO MAKE A FOOL DOLL DEMANDS THAT YOU DO STRANGE THINGS.
THEY SAY WORKS OF ART ARE REFLECTIONS OF THE ARTIST'S PERSONALITY.
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IN ALREADY?
WHAT DRAWS ME TO A FOOL DOLL...
INSIDE EVERY FOOL DOLL ARE THE ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES OF A REAL-LIFE INDIVIDUAL.


I...
...ARE THE SAME QUALITIES THAT DREW IN THEIR CREATOR.

...AN ENCROACNER IS.
SO THAT FUNNY THING BEHIND HIM...
. .IS AN EN-CROACNER?
IT'S A TOOL THAT ENABLES YOU TO TAP INTO OTHERS AND EXTRACT THEIR ATTRACTIVE QUALITIES.
YOU SAW IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES, RIGHT?
AND YOU FELT THAT ATTRACTION ENTER INTO YOU, DIDN'T YOU?
THIS WARM FEELING INSIDE ME...
...IS ATTRACTION?
SO DOLLS ARE MADE WITH THIS STRANGE POWER?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO MAKE DOLLS LIKE THIS.

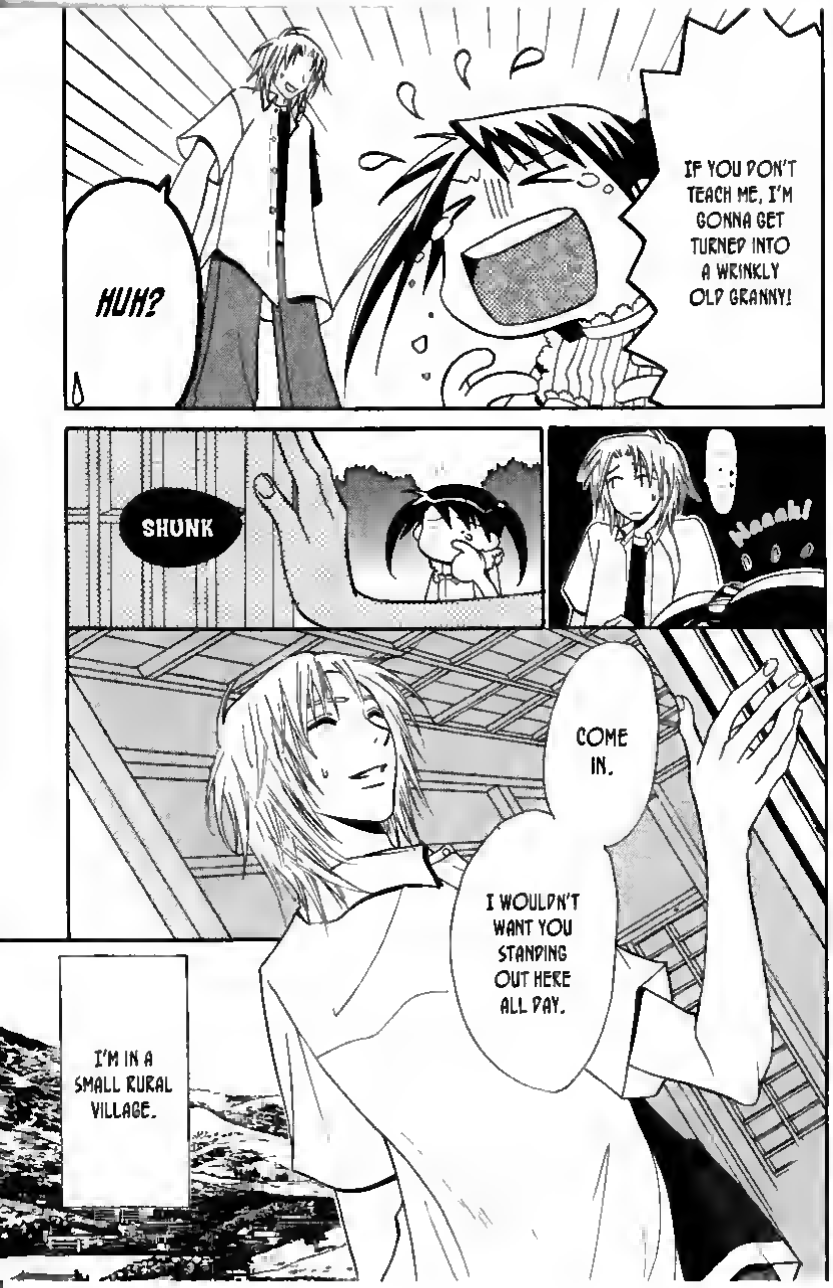
story 3
eyeball

I...
THE PART I STILL DON'T GET...
...IS WHAT A FOOL DOLL DOES TO ME!

OOPS.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO KISS EIICHIRO?
BY THE WAY...
ガ!!

Ah! But--!
I even set everything up for you to do it!

2 End


I'M IN A SMALL RURAL VILLAGE.
I WOULDN'T WANT YOU STANDING OUT HERE ALL DAY.
COME IN.
SHUNK
Haaah!
HUH?
IF YOU DON'T TEACH ME, I'M GONNA GET TURNED INTO A WRINKLY OLD GRANNY!

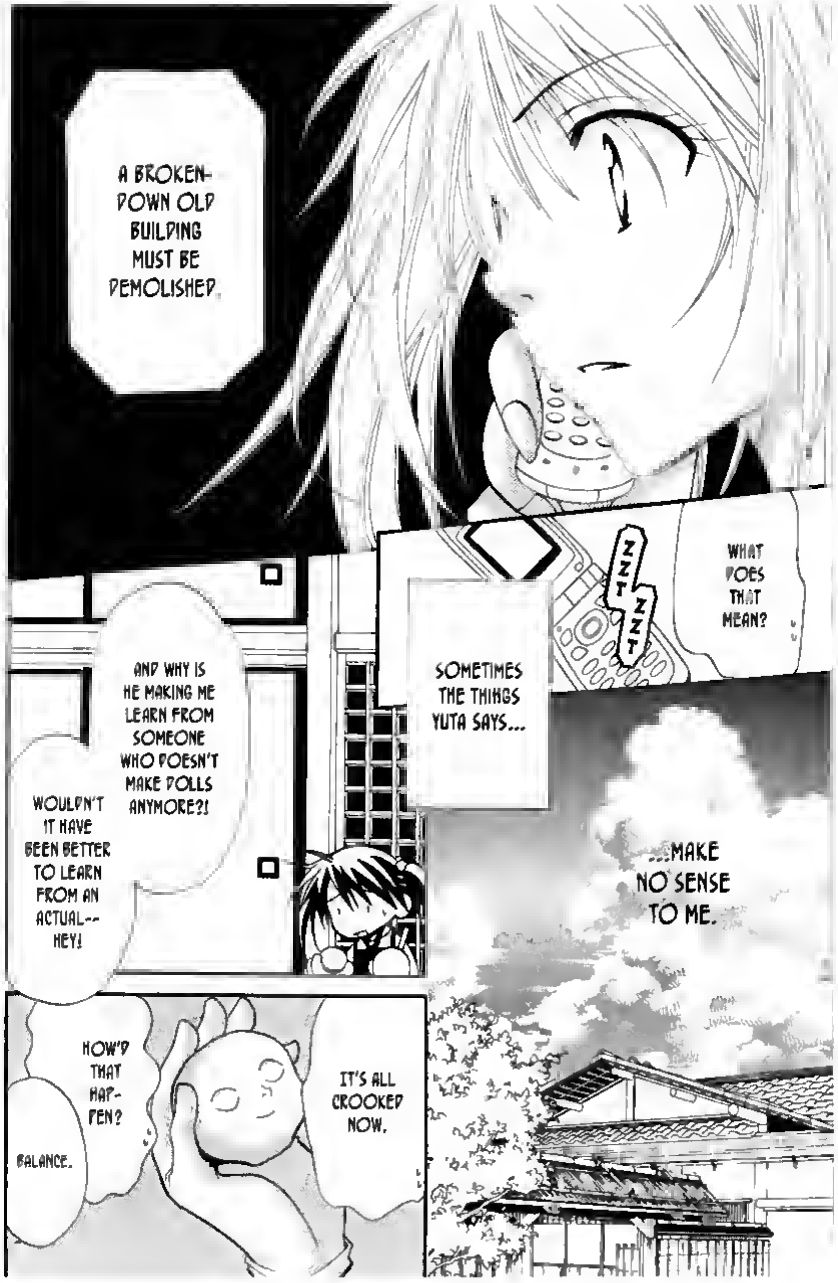
WAIT WAIT WAIT!
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU. I WANT TO BE A GREAT DOLL MAKER. AND ON TOP OF THAT--
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, WOULD YOU LEAVE?
HUH?
...I'VE ALREADY DECLINED YOUR REQUEST.
I KEEP TELLING YOU...

I'LL LOAN YOU THE SPACE TO MAKE A POLL ON YOUR OWN.
AND YOU CAN TELL FOOL THAT I TAUGHT YOU ALL I KNOW.
HEH HEH
IF YOU DON'T TEACH ME, SOMETHING AWFUL'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!
You're gonna learn from Nohara. It has to be him. I won't have you learn doll making from anyone else.
GASP!
OH, WELL.
SHEESH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT GUY IS THINKING.....
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER. BUT I THINK I'VE WARPED OFF GRAY HAIR AND MISSING TEETH FOR THE TIME BEING.

PLEASE, NOHARA-SAN!
IF YOU CAN SPEND EVEN FIVE DAYS WITH ME...
HIS THREAT WAS THE USUAL BIT ABOUT TURNING ME INTO AN OLD LADY.
SINCE MY SCHOOL'S ON BREAK, YUTA-SAN SENT ME OUT HERE WITH AN OBJECTIVE AND WITH A THREAT.
AND MY OBJECTIVE IS TAKASHI NOHARA, AN EXPERT DOLL MAKER.
UM, KOTOKO-CHAN, RIGHT?
I'VE STOPPED MAKING DOLLS.
That sort of puts a crimp in things
NOW COME NOBODY TOLD ME THIS?!
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. NOW I'M A TOMATO FARMER.
BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE DOLLS, RIGHT?
B-BUT...

FOR THE TIME BEING...
THAT'S A LIE.
HE'S NOT GOING TO TEACH YOU POLL MAKING RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
YOU SENT ME HERE EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW THAT?!
YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM THE PROS, RIGHT? THEN KEEP KNOCKING ON THEIR DOORS.
GASP!
H-H-HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
I CAN TELL.
BUT I FIGURE, GIVEN ENOUGH TIME HANGING AROUND A KLUTZ LIKE YOU, HE'LL HAVE TO INTERVENE OR HE'LL GO INSANE.
AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
Are you mocking me?
BUT DO NOT KISS NOHARA.
GOD! WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM?! SOME KIND OF KISSING MONSTER?
It's all your fault!
I DON'T WANT A SOURPUSS-LOOKING DOLL LIKE HIM.
WHY, I OUGHTA--!
TAKUTO IS A BOMB.
HUH?
IS HE MY BODYGUARD? IF SO, HE'S DOING AN AWFUL JOB.
WHY DOES TAKUTO-SAN GOTTA HANG AROUND ME ANYWAY?
PEST
PEST

K...
...YOU NEED TO LOOK AT THE WHOLE THING.
INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON ONLY ONE SECTION OF THE POLL...
GASP!
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
SLAM
I LIKE HIM.
WHY CAN'T YUTA BE NICE LIKE HIM, EVEN A LITTLE BIT?
And he's cute, too!
H-HE'S SO NICE!

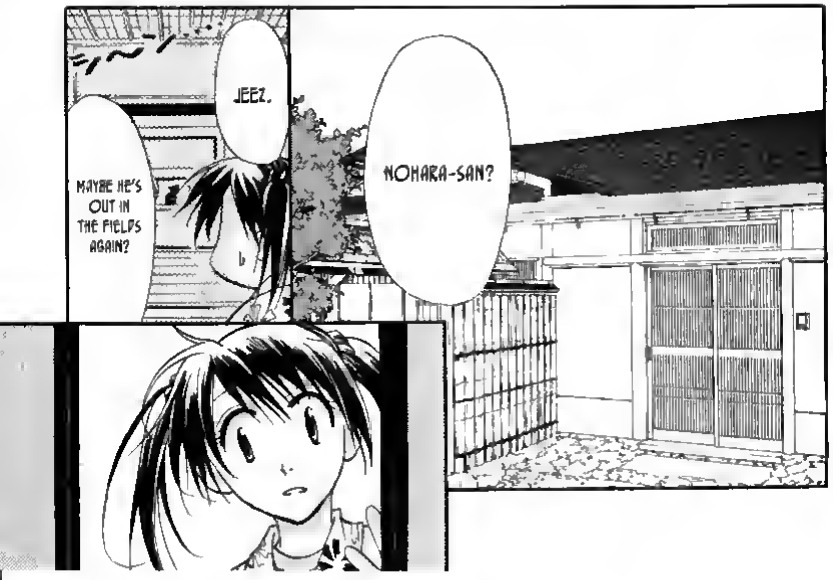

A BROKEN-DOWN OLD BUILDING MUST BE DEMOLISHED.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ZZT ZZT
SOMETIMES THE THINGS YUTA SAYS...
...MAKE NO SENSE TO ME.
AND WHY IS HE MAKING ME LEARN FROM SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T MAKE POLLS ANYMORE?!
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO LEARN FROM AN ACTUAL-- HEY!
IT'S ALL CROOKED NOW.
HOW'D THAT HAP-PEN?
BALANCE.

This goes here, and then it goes.
BUT SINCE IT'S THE DOLL'S ATTACHING PIECE, IT NEEDS TO BE EXACT.
HRM...
.....
HERE.
FOLD A POSTCARD IN HALF AND STAND IT UP LIKE THIS, THEN MARK THE AREA WHERE THE CARD AND THE SURFACE OF THE DOLL MEET.
IF THE LINE TURNS OUT SLANTED, YOU NEED TO FIX THE DOLL'S SHAPE.

I WANT TO LEARN FROM HIM...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE EARLIER.
BUT I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ASK YOU SOMETHING ELSE.
IS IT ABOUT LAYING DOWN THE PARTING LINES?
YES, I NEVER SEEM TO DO IT RIGHT.
UM...
I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT THAT THE LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN INCONSPICUOUSLY.

NOHARA-SAN HAS NEVER LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE BEFORE.
MUST BE MY IMAGINATION
YOU WERE RIGHT, YUTA-SAN
HE KEPT SAYING HE WASN'T GOING TO HELP ME, BUT IT SEEMS HE CAN'T HELP BUT HELP ME THE MORE HE WATCHES ME WORKING.
AM I REALLY THAT BAD?
YEP!
BLUNT
BUT NOHARA-SAN IS SO GOOD...
I'm learning a lot!
OF COURSE YOU ARE. HE WAS ONCE A PRO. DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF TO HIM.
Ugh
BUT WHY DID HE QUIT MAKING DOLLS? WHAT A WASTE OF TALENT!
WHY? BECAUSE HE'S AN IDIOT.
I ASK BECAUSE...
...YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN THERE FOR A MINUTE.
WHY DID YOU QUIT MAKING DOLLS?
WHAT?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
Wow, a perfect straight line
HUH?
IT'S POKE.
GLANCE
I'M ALWAYS HAVING FUN NO MATTER WHAT.

YOU WERE LURED OUT JUST AS EXPECTED...
...NOHARA.

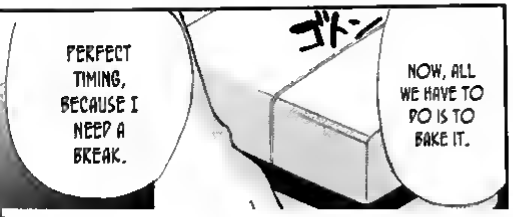

JEEZ.
NOHARA-SAN?
MAYBE HE'S OUT IN THE FIELDS AGAIN?

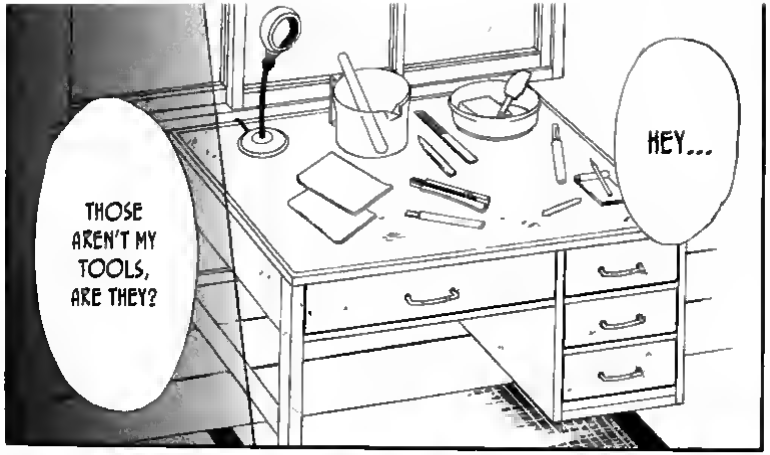
THERE'S NO OTHER POLL MAKER LIKE HIM IN JAPAN.
BUT RIGHT NOW, HE'S JUST AN IDIOT WHO'S LETTING HIS TALENTS WASTE AWAY.
...QUIT MAKING POLLS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY NOHARA-SAN...
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU HAD THE ABILITY TO COMPLIMENT OTHERS.
WHAT'S WITH THE SILENCE?
AND HE HANGS UP AGAIN!
NUH?!
STARE
BECAUSE HE'S A COWARD, THAT'S WHY.
CLICK

...KNOWING THAT, DEEP DOWN, NOHARA-SAN...

I'M JUST HAPPY...

...WANTS TO MAKE DOLLS AGAIN.





I BET YOUR DOLLS ARE GENTLE AND CUTE LIKE YOU.
I WANTED TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DOLLS...
but I don't see a single doll
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
I THREW THEM ALL AWAY.
BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL ARROGANT, COWARDLY AND DISGUSTING DOLLS. ALL JUST LIKE ME.
SO I GOT RID OF THEM.
YOU WHAT?
NOHARA-SAN, YOU THINK YOU'RE ARROGANT?
TH...
THAT'S NOT TRUE. YOU'VE GOT A VERY LIKEABLE PERSONALITY.
You're kind and you're easy to get along with.
I'LL GET THE TEA OFF THE STOVE.
HE AVOIDED MY GAZE AGAIN.
WHAT'S WRONG?
Your hand stopped
UH... WELL... UM...

I SEE...
SO THAT'S WHY NOHARA-SAN NEVER LOOKS ME IN THE EYE.
.....
LIKE, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN SO DISCOURAGED, OR HAVE YOU EVER COMPARED YOUR WORK TO OTHERS' AND DESPAIRED?
OR HAVE YOU EVER FELT CRUSHED AT HEARING PRAISE MEANT FOR OTHER PEOPLE?
KOTOKO-CHAN, HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF QUITTING DOLL MAKING?
BUT DOESN'T THAT POSE A BIT OF A HANDICAP WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING DOLLS?
BADUM

MAYBE I SHOULD THINK MORE ABOUT THE DOLL'S PERSONALITY BEFORE I CUT THE EYES.
HUH?
I SEE...
I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT CUTTING THE EYEHOLES.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT FOR YOU.
HUH?
MAYBE FOOL PLANNED THIS ALL ALONG.
RSTL
THAT'S WEIRD. THE DOLL EYES ARE MISSING...
Did I forget them?
RSTL
SO YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WITH THE EYES, I'M AFRAID. SORRY.
I'M NOT GOOD WITH EYES--DOLL EYES NOR HUMAN EYES.

...FEEL THE SAME AS I WOULD?
BZZZZT
HEY!
Tomorrow you will execute the plan
WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT ANY OF THAT TO HAPPEN.
BUT I THINK IT'D BE EVEN HARDER ON ME...
...IF I COULDN'T MAKE DOLLS AT ALL.
DOESN'T NOHARA-SAN...
I WONDER WHY NOHARA-SAN SAID THAT TO ME?

NOHARA-SAN...
GOOD MORNING, KOTOKO-CHAN.
OH!
PLEASE LOOK ME IN THE EYE.

I WISH I COULD'VE GOTTEN A LOOK AT NOHARA-SAN'S POLLS...
TODAY'S MY FOURTH DAY HERE. I'M GOING HOME TOMORROW...
...AT LEAST ONCE...

HUH...?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN STAR?
"STAR"?
STAR IS...
I COULDN'T MAKE POLLS ANYMORE AFTER LOOKING INTO STAR'S EYES.
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT OTHER POLL'S EYES, I CAN'T KEEP FROM THINKING OF STAR'S EYES.

LOOK AT MY EYES!
I KNOW YOU REALLY WANT TO KEEP MAKING POLLS!
AND I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING TO SEE YOUR POLLS!
NOHARA-SAN!
I CAN'T!
KOTOKO-CHAN.
WHY NOT?!

ARGH...
AH...
STOP, TAKUTO-SAN! DON'T GIVE HIM THOSE!
I'LL DO IT AGAIN...
I'M JUST GOING TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN.
IS IT REVENGE YOU'RE AFTER?

STAR IS FOOL'S...
...ULTIMATE MASTERPIECE DOLL!
AH...
TAKUTO-SAN! WHY IS HE HERE?!
WAH!
WHAT ...?!

"HE'S A COWARD."
"THEY WERE ALL ARROGANT."
I GET IT...
NOHARA-SAN SAW THIS STAR DOLL...
DON'T LOOK AT ME...
...AND HE FOUND ...
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
MY IDEAL CANNOT HAVE BEEN CREATED BY ANOTNER PERSON.

I'LL HURT STAR AS MANY TIMES AS I CAN!
IS NOHARA-SAN CONFUSING TAKUTO-SAN FOR STAR?!
YOU'RE NOT REAL.
YOU SHOULDN'T EXIST!!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
NOHARA-SAN! HE'S NOT STAR!
I NEED TO MAKE IT DISAPPEAR...
...OR ELSE MY DOLL MAKING WILL BE MEANINGLESS...

KOTOKO-CHAN...

...JEALOUSY DEEP IN HIS HEART.
DON'T LOOK AT ME WITH THOSE EYES!!
...I KNOW NOHARA-SAN...
BUT...
...OKAY NOW.
...WILL BE...

NOHARA-SAN HAS SUCH GENTLE EYES.

THAT DOLL HAS VERY BEAUTIFUL...
...EYES.
I KNEW IT.
YEP.

I KNOW YUTA-SAN WANTED TO SEE NOHARA-SAN'S DOLLS, TOO.
I JUST ASSUMED HE'D BE OVER THEM BY NOW.
WE INFUSED NOHARA-SAN'S ATTRACTION THAT I'D EXTRACTED THROUGH MY ENCROACHER INTO THE DOLL.
AND THEN WHEN YUTA KISSED THE DOLL AS A RITUAL...
...THE DOLL'S EYES LIT UP.

THE NEXT DAY...
...NOHARA-SAN DISAPPEARED.
NOHARA UNDERSTOOD MY WORK, AND HE COULDN'T GET OVER HIS DARK FEELINGS.
WHEN NOHARA DESTROYED ONE OF MY DOLLS, HE FELT SO GUILTY AND SO INFERIOR THAT HE STOPPED MAKING DOLLS.
THAT LAST MOVE WAS MORE LIKE A BET.
...IS WHAT HE SAID.
WHEN I RETURNED TO TOKYO AND TOLD YUTA-SAN...

HUMANS HAVE SOMETHING CALLED "CURIOSITY" IN THEIR NATURE. THEY MAKE ENORMOUS EFFORTS TO SATISFY THEIR CURIOSITY.
AND WHEN THAT CURIOSITY IS TRIGGERED...

WHEN NOHARA-SAN DISAPPEARED, HIS DOLL-MAKING TOOLS DISAPPEARED AS WELL.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. I WISH I COULD SHOW THIS TO NOHARA-SAN...
THAT'S INCREDIBLE.

I'M NOT SURE IF HE THREW THEM AWAY, OR IF HE STOWED THEM SOMEWHERE.
I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT HE KEPT THEM.
...LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO MY EYES.
BECAUSE NOHARA-SAN...

3End

story 4
switch

WHAT ARE THESE TWO DOING?!
NOOO!
AND WHY IS HIS SKIN MORE LUMINOUS THAN A YOUNG GIRL'S?!
...IT FEELS LIKE A SWITCH BEING PRESSED.

YOU SLUT!
Hey!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT A BUSIER SCHEDULE THAN MOST CELEBRITIES.
I TAKE TESTS FROM MORNING TO NOON.
AND THEN AT NIGHT, I STUDY. SO I NEVER HAVE TIME TO SLEEP!
AND WHEN THAT'S DONE I COME HERE TO HELP OUT.
SO IT'S TYPICAL FOR ME TO DOZE OFF AT RANDOM TIMES!
WHAT REALLY ANNOYS ME IS THAT MY LABOR IS NEVER REWARDED!
INSTEAD YOU FALL ASLEEP NEXT TO ME, THEN CALL ME A SLUT! AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?!
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
HEY! DON'T FALL ASLEEP AGAIN!

!
Z Z Z
What?
IGNORE
Graph!!
CONTRARY TO WHAT YOU SEE, FOOL ROP IS EXTREMELY BUSY RIGHT NOW
Eep!
U-UM, CAN YOU WAKE UP YUTA-SAN?
Eep!

EVEN IF IT KILLS US!
GET UP, YUTA!

YOU KNOW WHAT?! MAYUMI'S BEEN WORKING ON THE CLOTHES ALL THIS TIME, AND SHE HASN'T PAID ATTENTION TO ME AT ALL!
HURRY UP! MAKE SOME DOLLS! DO YOU WANT TO TURN US INTO A BUNCH OF HOMELESS BUMS?!

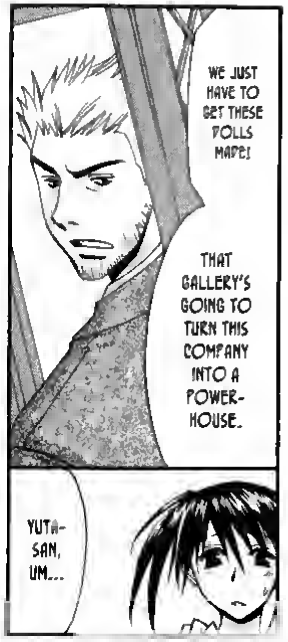
IMPOS-SIBLE!
IF I HAVEN'T MADE EVEN ONE DOLL, NOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE FIVE?
THE GALLERY'S ORDERED FIVE MORE DOLLS.
THAT MANY? I CAN'T WAIT!

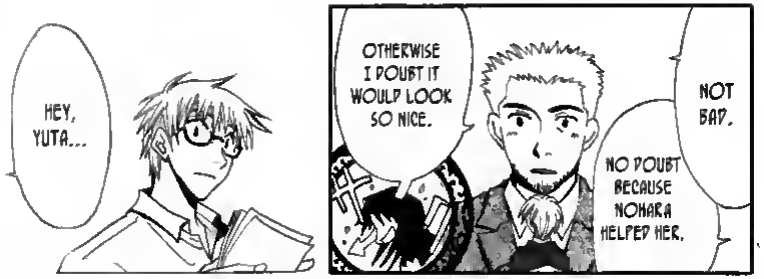
FOOL DOLL ROSE GARDEN
1999 2009 special
FOOL HIMSELF IS VERY RELAXED
BECAUSE FOOL'S GOT A GALLERY OF HIS OWN OPENING SOON
BUT, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, THERE'S NOT A BIT OF WORK GOING ON. ARE WE GOING TO MAKE IT?
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORK!

NEVER BRING UP STAR AGAIN.
THAT DOLL DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.
KOTOKO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
I HATED THAT PIECE, SO I GOT RID OF IT.
DID YOU SELL IT TO SOME-ONE?

OH, I KNOW!
.....
IT'S YOUR GALLERY! GET CRACKING!
Crack
WHY DON'T YOU EXHIBIT YOUR STAR DOLL?
I'D LOVE SO MUCH TO SEE IT!
STAR? WHAT'S THAT?
EIICHIRO-SAN HASN'T EVEN SEEN IT?

BUT THE MORE THINGS YOU HIDE FROM ME, THE MORE I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE.

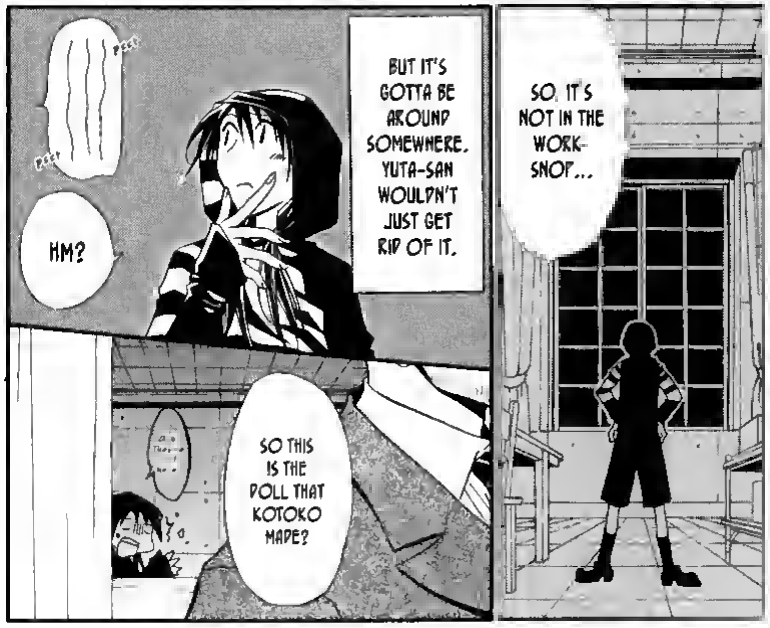



HEY, YUTA...
OTHERWISE I DOUBT IT WOULD LOOK SO NICE.
NO DOUBT BECAUSE NOHARA HELPED HER.
NOT BAD.

I'VE BEEN WONDERING. WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVER WANTED TO MAKE MALE DOLLS, AND WHY ARE YOU ALLOWING KOTOKO TO MAKE THEM?
DIDN'T YOU EVER WANT TO MAKE A MALE DOLL OF YOUR OWN?

OBSERVATION AND FIXATION ON PEOPLE NEVER WORKS WITH SAME-SEX OBSERVERS! IT'S NOT A MATTER OF SKILL.
BESIDES...
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, EIICHIRO.
INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT TO AN AMATEUR, YOU COULD MAKE A MALE DOLL THAT'S NOT ONLY BETTER, BUT MADE FASTER.

LESSON #1: HIDING THINGS FROM ME IS A BIG MISTAKE!

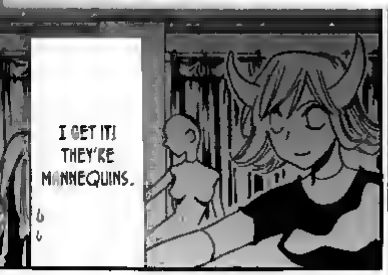

HM?
BUT IT'S GOTTA BE AROUND SOMEWHERE. YUTA-SAN WOULDN'T JUST GET RID OF IT.
SO THIS IS THE DOLL THAT KOTOKO MADE?
SO, IT'S NOT IN THE WORK-SHOP...

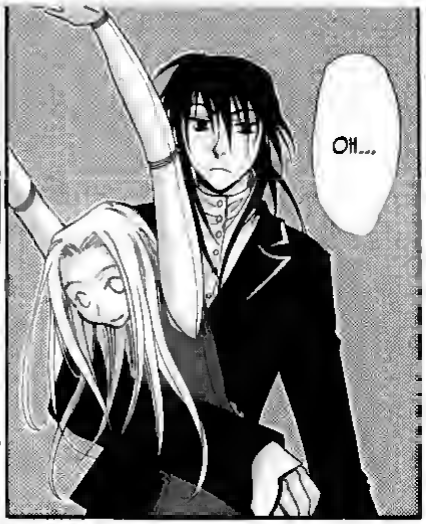
SO GO TELL THAT TO THE STRAY CAT OUT THERE.
KOTO-KO'S THE CHOSEN ONE.
NYA...
Happy!
THERE'S A STRAY CAT LOOSE IN HERE.
Nyarah
KOTOKO'S KISS IS SO NAIVE. THAT'S WHAT I WANT. ♡
That's how it shall be
ガチャン
SEE YA.
FINDING IT CAN WAIT. I'M GONNA GO HOME.
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
YOU KNOW...
...THE EN-CROACHERS LOVE IDIOTS.
ESPECIALLY PEOPLE WHO GET IDIOTIC ABOUT DOLLS.

I DIDN'T FIND STAR LAST NIGHT...
STAR, THE DOLL WITH A DEATH GRIP ON NOHARA-SAN...
A DOLL EIICHIRO-SAN'S NEVER SEEN, AND ONE YUTA-SAN NEVER WANTS TO SHOW TO OTHERS...
FOOL'S ULTIMATE MASTERPIECE.
I WONDER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
HUH?
IT'S YUTA-SAN...

WAAAH!!
WAVE
WAVE
?
WHY IS TAKUTO-SAN FOLLOWING YUTA-SAN?
UM...
YOU'VE NEVER SEEN STAR BEFORE, EITHER?

IS THIS YUTA-SAN'S HOUSE?
WH-WHOA...
REALLY?!
WOW. YUTA-SAN'S NEVER EVEN LET TAKUTO-SAN SEE STAR?
IT'S SO GLOOMY.
IT'S RIGHT OUT OF A HORROR MOVIE.
M-MY IMAGINATION IS GOING BERSERK.
SKUFF


I GET IT! THEY'RE MANNEQUINS.


OH...

TH-THANK YOU...

TAKUTO-SAN'S EYES AND FACE, EVERY-THING...
THEY'RE ALL BEAUTIFUL.

ドーン
GYAAAA!!

ガシャーン!
B-BUT THAT WAS ONLY A MOVIE--
Ha ha ha!

Huff
Huff

. . . .
GYAAA!!

WHERE DID YUTA-SAN GO?
UGH...

ALL THESE WINDOWS ARE MAKING ME THINK OF THIS SCENE IN A HORROR MOVIE WHERE A ZOMBIE PEEKED THROUGH A WINDOW.

BUT THEN WHY DO I FEEL RELIEVED THAT HE AVOIDED MY GAZE?

huff
huff
NO MORE!
I WANT TO GO HOME!
!
IF...

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
WHAT...
I CAME HERE ALONE, ON A WHIM...
...BUT I DON'T DARE TAKE A STEP FURTHER.
I'M NEVER GOING TO SET FOOT INSIDE A HAUNTED HOUSE AGAIN!
THUMP
WHAT?
THUMP

I WISH A ZOMBIE WOULD POP OUT AND SCARE ME SO MY BLOOD WOULD FREEZE AND COOL MY BODY DOWN.

TH-THANK YOU. I'M OKAY NOW.
AH...
MY HAND...
IF TAKUTO-SAN WASN'T THERE...
I WOULD HAVE TUMBLED DOWN THOSE STAIRS.
SQZ

PLEASE LEAN OVER SO I CAN BRUSH THEM OFF YOU.
TAKUTO-SAN, YOU'VE GOT COBWEBS IN YOUR HAIR.

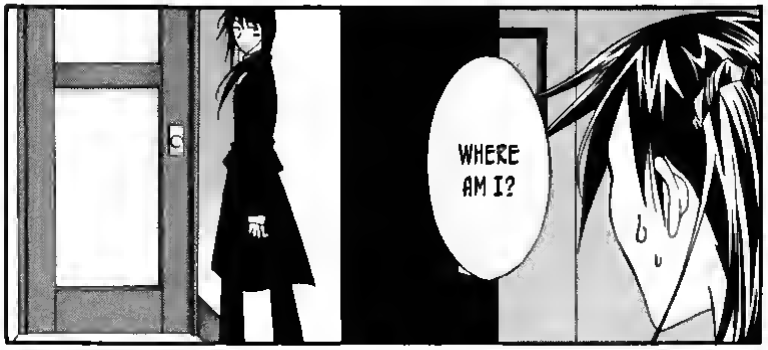
OH NO...MY FACE IS SO HOT...

So cute !!
WOOF!
...I'M PATTING A DOG'S HEAD.
IT FEELS LIKE...

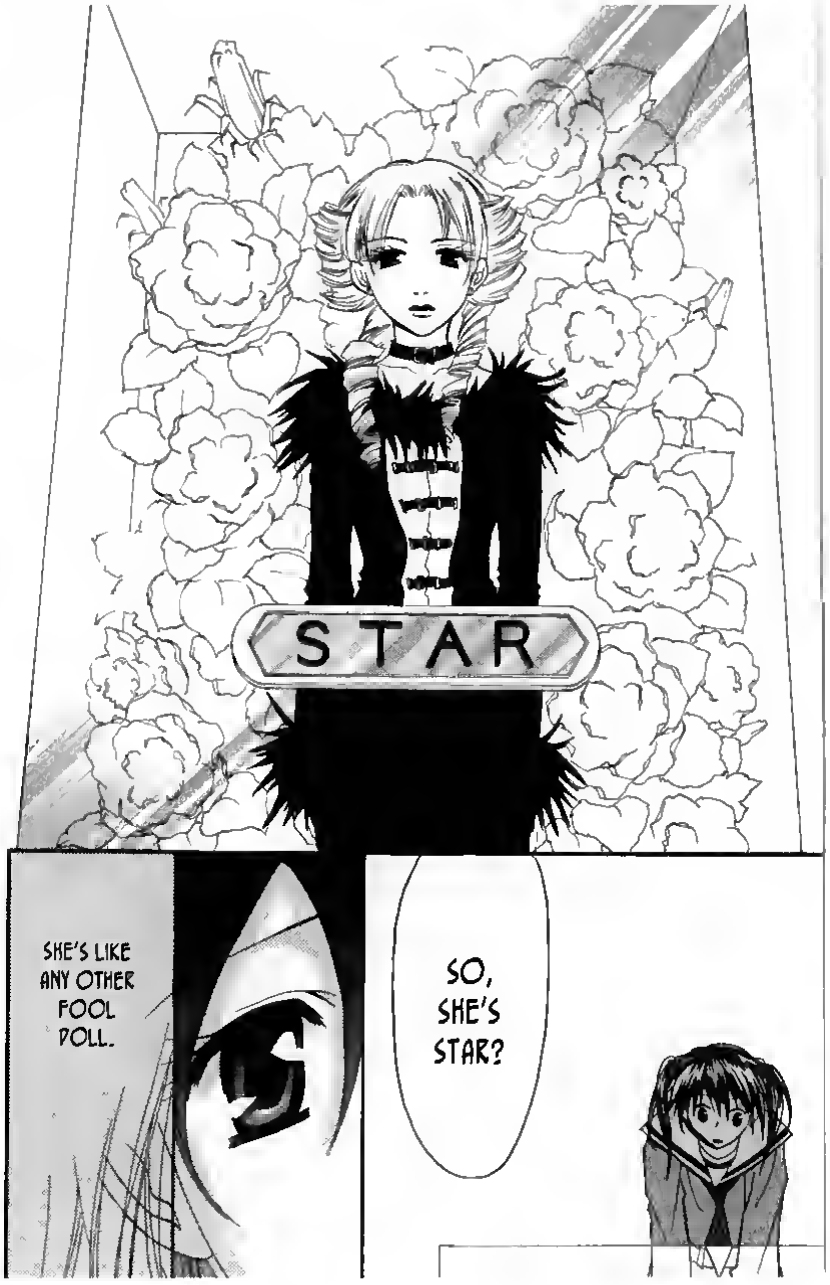
OH NO...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
WHAT?

OH MY!

WERE YOU THE ONE WHO BROKE THE WINDOW?!
YOU'RE COVERED IN GLASS...
YOU'RE THAT DOG...
THAT IDIOT DOG!!
HEY! COME BACK!!
Don't leave me!

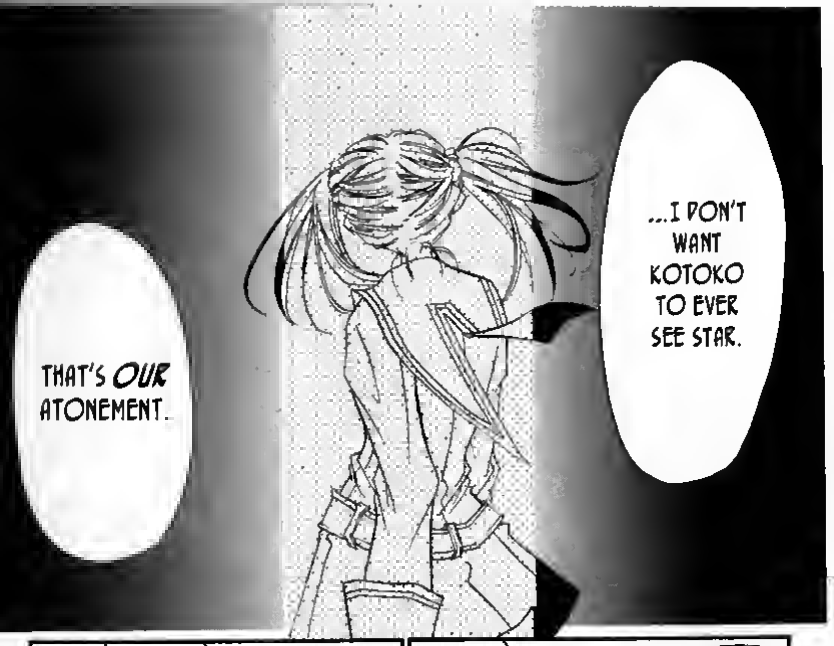

WHERE AM I?

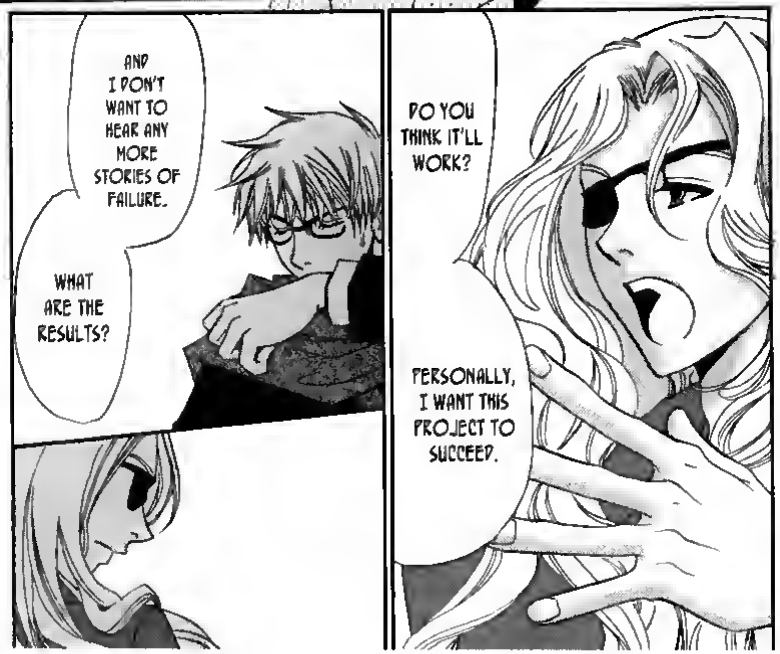
I GUESS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SOMETHING MORE SPECIAL.



PANDORA'S BOX IS DESTINED TO BE OPENED.
NOT NECES-SARILY...
...FUYU.

FOR THE TIME BEING, THINK OF THAT AS THE STAR DOLL...
...KOTOKO.
NO MATTER THE WARNINGS AGAINST IT OR HOW DEEPLY IT'S HIDDEN.
SUCH IS THE FOOLISHNESS OF HUMAN NATURE.
PEOPLE CRAVE TO KNOW THE UNKNOWN...


...I DON'T WANT KOTOKO TO EVER SEE STAR.
THAT'S OUR ATONEMENT.


AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY MORE STORIES OF FAILURE.
WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?
DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
PERSONALLY, I WANT THIS PROJECT TO SUCCEED.

AFTER ALL, YOU'VE OPENED THE BOX.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
STAR IS THE SWITCH THAT UNLOCKS EVERYONE'S PANDORA'S BOX.
THAT'S WHY...
I WAS THE ONE WHO CREATED THE SWITCH TO TRIGGER OTHERS' DESIRES IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNLOCK MY OWN DESIRES.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S SET.

ONLY...
WE STILL NEED TWO MORE POLLS.
...TWO MORE.
AND THAT'S WHEN YUTA'S WISH WILL BE GRANTED.

AS A 99TH PERCENTILE PROFIT EARNER, I BECAME A CONSULTANT FOR A LARGE COMPANY.
I GRADUATED WITH HONORS FROM A PRESTIGIOUS PRIVATE COLLEGE WITH A DEGREE IN BUSINESS
SOON AFTER, I ACQUIRED AN AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE WITH NO DIFFICULTY.
ANYBODY WOULD BE JEALOUS OF MY CAREER HISTORY.
AND NOW I'M...
EXCUSE ME, MISS?

ALL SWITCHES HAVE BEEN PRESSED.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GREAT RESULTS, KOTOKO.

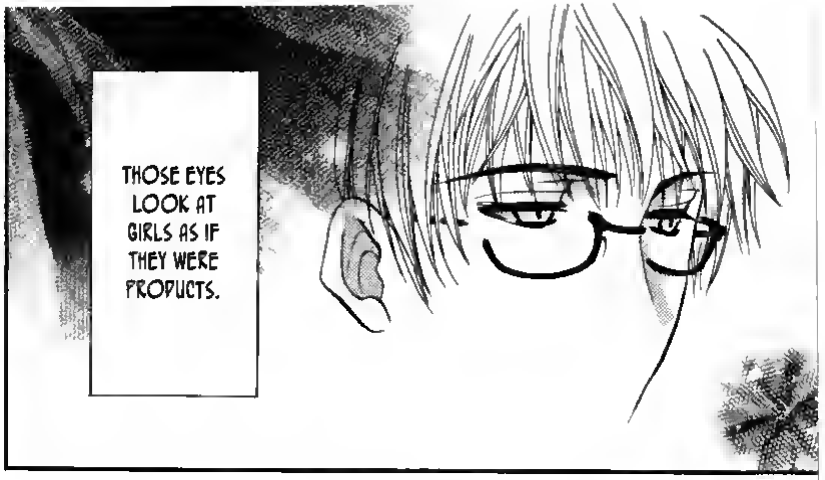
4 End

I WAS IMMEDIATELY FIRED.
URYAAAAA!
MY GLORIOUS TRACK RECORD CAME TO A DISGRACEFUL HALT WHEN I PUNCHED IN THE HEAD OF MY CLIENT'S COMPANY.
THERE IS NO MANUAL FOR HOW TO DO THIS RIGHT.
OH, NO ONE'S EVER TOLD ME THAT BEFORE.
Ooh, a catch ♡
WHEN I SAW YOU, I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT, "I WANT TO BE SERVED BY A GIRL LIKE HER."
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN MY INSTINCTS.
SO DO ME THE FAVOR OF HEARING ME OUT.
WHATEVER I BELIEVE CAN SUCCEED ALWAYS DOES.
YOU NEED PROOF OF MY INSTINCTS? WELL, ALL THE GIRLS I'VE RECRUITED HAVE GONE ON TO BECOME NUMBER ONE HOSTESSES.
MISS?

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A HOSTESS?
...A TOP-NOTCH RECRUITER.
extra

HM?
WHO'S THIS GUY'S STANDING IN FRONT OF OUR SHOP?
IS HE A NEWBIE?
WELCOME...
...TO CLUB NOIR.
!
THANKS.
THAT GUY OVER THERE SAID THAT HE SPOTTED OUR MINA OUT ON THE STREET, AND FOLLOWED HER HERE. I THOUGHT HE WAS A STALKER OR SOMETHING, BUT...
Huh?
THAT GUY ISN'T THE STALKER TYPE...
WHAT'S WRONG, EIICHIRO?
UH...
HE'S BEEN ORDERING REALLY EXPENSIVE BOTTLES, AND HE TIPS WELL TOO.
AND HE'S SMOOTH WITH THE LADIES.
I THINK HE'S FROM A DIFFERENT CLUB, AND HE'S HEADHUNTING FOR HIS BOSSES.
IT'S TRUE.
THAT GUY LOOKS AT GIRLS WITH A VERY SHREWD EYE.
THOSE EYES...

I SEE. WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
MINA-CHAN TELLS ME...
HE TALKS JUST LIKE ME...
I NOTICED HER OUT IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD
AND THEN IT CAME TO ME.
TELL ME... WHY DID YOU QUIT YOUR CONSULTING JOB?
ALL THE GIRLS YOU RECRUITED, INCLUDING MINA-CHAN, HAVE ALL BECOME TOP-NOTCH HOSTESSES.
...THAT YOU USED TO BE A CONSULTANT FOR A BIG-TIME COMPANY, AND NOW YOU'RE A HOTSHOT RECRUITER.
I'VE GOT UNBEATABLE INSTINCTS FOR FINDING THE RIGHT GIRLS FOR THE RIGHT JOBS.
I JUST DECIDED TO CHANGE CAREERS. I WANTED SOMETHING THAT FULLY UTILIZED MY INSTINCTS.


THOSE EYES LOOK AT GIRLS AS IF THEY WERE PRODUCTS.

I CAME TO PLAY AGAIN.
NOT "YOU." THE NAME'S YUTA!
カラオケ
Y...
YOU.
I SURE DO.
SO YOU REALLY LIKE OUR MINA, DON'T YOU?
Ghoooh
HE WAS JUST HERE YES-TERDAY.

WHAT THE--?!
THAT'S...
WHAT THE HELL IS HE UP TO?!
HEY, THIS LOOKS BAD.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, GIVE ME A CALL.
I'M GOING TO START MY OWN COMPANY.
H-HEY!
I KNEW IT...
HE'S TRYING TO LURE US OVER TO HIS SIDE.
AND YOU WERE RIGHT, HE WAS--
YEAH...
ISN'T THAT GUY HERE AGAIN?
ENCHIRO!

AND SINCE THEN, YUTA HASN'T SHOWN HIS FACE HERE.
FOR NOW, THAT IS.
AND MINA WAS NEVER SNAPPED UP BY ANOTHER CLUB, EITHER.
I'VE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.

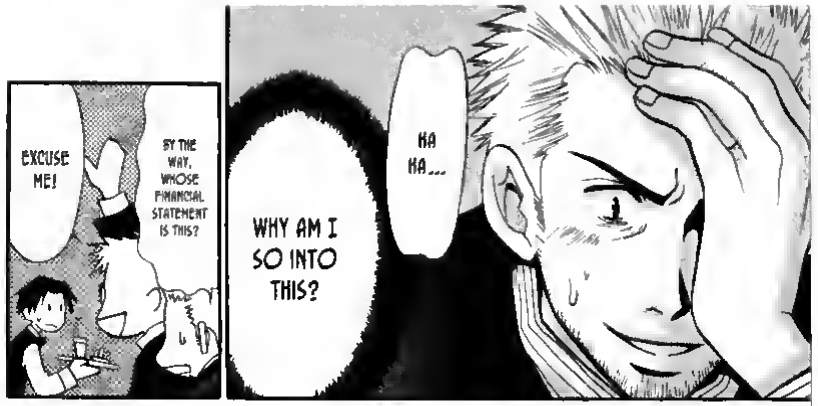
I KEEP FORGETTING TO ERASE YUTA'S NUMBER OFF MY CELL PHONE.
HUH...
EIICHIRO!
I'LL DO THAT...

EXCUSE ME, BUT WE'RE NOT RUNNING A BORDELLO HERE.
KYAAAA!
KINDLY GET UP AND LEAVE THIS ESTABLISHMENT.
YOU GOT IT.

I JUST WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS AND GIVE ME YOUR OPINION.
WHAT THE...
HURRY!
Mumble
Mumble
If it was up to me, I'd monitor the expenses like a hawk.
No audit trail, eden!
WHO THE HELL MANAGED YOUR ACCOUNTS?
YOUR LEDGER INDICATES WAY TOO MUCH RECKLESS SPENDING!
Gasp!

WH-WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE THIS TIME?
HEY!
YUTA ?!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
W-WELCOME DO YOU HAVE A GIRL IN MIND SIR?
I choose Eiichiro. ♡
ARE YOU STUPID?! I'M NOT A HOST!
NOW NOW...

LET'S FORM A COMPANY DEDICATED TO THE CREATION OF THESE POLLS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?


EXCUSE ME!
BY THE WAY, WHOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS THIS?
WHY AM I SO INTO THIS?
HA HA...

WHAT?!
I'M GOING TO TAKE EIICHIRO.

DO IT FOR THEM.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! I'M NOT GOING TO WORK WITH--
AHP?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I TOLD YOU I WAS STARTING MY OWN COMPANY, DIDN'T I?
HEY! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

Ending

DID YOU SERIOUSLY MAKE THIS? IT'S LIKE YOU USED MAGIC!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
AMAZING...
I'M A RECRUITER, ONE OF THE BEST, WHO LIVES BY HIS INSTINCTS...
ANYTHING THAT TRIGGERS MY INSTINCTS...
I LIKE THAT!
...WILL BE A GUARANTEED SUCCESS.
FOOL'S FINGERS ARE LIKE MAGIC RODS.
THEN THE NAME OF THE COMPANY WILL BE "FOOL ROD."

Extra End

■ I REALLY LIKE THIS "1 GIRL + 2 GUYS" COMBINATION. I REALLY DO. PLUS, I REALLY ENJOY THE FACT THAT THE GIRL IS REALLY SMALL AND SHORT, VERSUS THE GUYS, WHO'RE REALLY TALL AND OMINOUS. IF I WAS REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING CHILDREN, I WOULD'VE MADE KOTOKO A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL...

■ THIS GUY'S PERSONALITY AND FACE ARE SOMEWHAT MEANER THAN THIS SKETCH LETS ON. INITIALLY, I HAD HIM BE JUST A PERVERTED ARTIST WITH A THING FOR WEARING KIMONOS. OH, I GUESS SOME PERVERSIONS NEVER REALLY CHANGE.

Yuta. First Draft

He's like a snake.

Takuto. First Draft

■ HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT. I PREFER THE LENGTH OF HAIR SHORT AND PARTED ON THE LEFT, BUT I WANTED TO MAKE HIM DIFFERENT, SO I MADE HIS HAIR REALLY LONG. THE HARDEST PART IS INKING IN ALL HIS HAIR STRANDS. EVENTUALLY...PROBABLY... MOST LIKELY...MUMBLE MUMBLE...

■ WELL, THANK YOU FOR PUTTING UP WITH THIS BOOK. THE STORY WILL CONTINUE FOR A BIT LONGER, SO PLEASE KEEP ON READING!

Kazuko Higashiyama

Special thanx
kazuko.M sama / takako.W sama
etsuko.T sama / C sama
and You ♡

Hello! Long time no see! This is Kazuko Higashiyama!

So what the hell have I been up to all this time?
I'm just amazed I didn't disappear from this business
It's been one year and two months since my last personal book
Pratt

■ MY MEMORY'S BEEN REALLY, REALLY FOGGY RECENTLY. I SOMETIMES GET OUT OF MY CHAIR AND THEN FORGET WHY I GOT UP, AND I WILL STAND LIKE THAT FOR MINUTES. THANK YOU FOR BUYING THE FIRST VOLUME OF "SHINSHOKU KISS." THIS IS MY FIRST MULTIPLE-VOLUME BOOK, AND THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A GIRL! AT FIRST, I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HER, AND MY FEAR STILL HASN'T COMPLETELY GONE AWAY. SORRY ABOUT THAT...

Kotoko in Uniform First Draft

Kotoko with Glasses

Kotoko in Uniform

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYONE OUT THERE WHO WANTS TO SEE MY ROUGH SKETCHES. IT'S BEEN MY LONGTIME SECRET WISH TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, THOUGH.

箱(キミ)の中身を
第5話
WHEEL OF FORTUNE

From the co-creator of *tactics!*

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